

# Spark Gap

Vol. 30, Issue 4, April 2013 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty years*

## On Our MARC...

At our meeting on Saturday, April 20th, we will welcome Gary Davis, who will talk to us about 2-meter, j-poles. Many of you will remember Gary from a couple of years ago, when he gave us a presentation on the Creepy, Peepy Camera. Please join us to learn more about these simple, yet versatile, antennas.

In March, I expressed the need for the MARC to have a digital communications committee to help keep the content on our web presence fresh. We are extremely fortunate to have the [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org) site and we need to make sure that it stays current and is user-friendly. I am pleased to announce that Ron Schuetz, K9THR, has agreed to lead the group. He will be ably assisted by Jim Busch, KC9WLF, and Jeff Allen, KC9ULB.

Thanks to Ron, the MARC now also has a page on Facebook. Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/MidStateARC> and don't forget to "like" us while you are there. Also under construction, but not quite ready for prime time, is a Twitter feed for the club. I am building this profile and hope to have it finished in the next 2-3 weeks. So, as you can see there are going to be lots of locations for us to tell the Mid-State story.

Thanks to all of you who have paid your membership dues for 2013. It is through your support in this manner that you validate and support the MARC. It is great to see a full-house at our monthly meetings.

See you soon!

Bob - KC9NJM

President

\*\*\*\*\*

## ***FCC News: FCC Seeks to Reassess RF Exposure Limits***



On March 27, the FCC released a *First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* and a *Notice of Inquiry* (ET Docket Nos. 13-84 and 03-137). The documents seek to reassess the FCC's RF exposure limits and policies, as well as to propose changes to the FCC's rules regarding human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. These proposed changes would affect the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) rules.

In its *Notice of Inquiry*, the FCC included clarifications related to the application of occupational exposure limits for devices and at fixed transmitter sites. The FCC noted that it "should be helpful to licensees to codify our earlier adopted policy with regard the use of occupational/controlled limits at Amateur Radio stations." This policy was first established in the *RF Report and Order of 1996*, but it was not incorporated in the rules at that time. It allows amateur stations to be evaluated "with respect to

occupational/controlled exposure limits, as long as appropriate training and information has been provided to the amateur licensee and members of his or her immediate household. Other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee's household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits."

"The ARRL has an RF Safety Committee, the committee members, as well as Board members and staff are reviewing the lengthy document and will formulate a response. *ARRL Newsletter, April 3, 2013*

# THE OFFICAL M.A.R.C. SHIRT

If you would like to have an official MARC shirt please fill out the form below and mail it to the address below or bring it to the club meeting.

+++++

## ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Shirt: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Size:      **S   M   L   XL   XXL   XXXL**      (Please circle your choice)

Color:    Light Blue

Please fill out the order form for the Club Shirt. Please print clearly as this order will be given to Steve Brown's wife to put the information on once we decide what all will be on there.

Please mail the order form to me at:

Jacki Frederick  
857 Lionshead Lane  
Greenwood, IN 46143

You can always bring it to the meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$ 28.00 per shirt, payable to MARC.

+++++

Johnson County ARES/RACES is looking for new members that can assist the county when a disaster or emergency takes place. All you need is a willingness to be of assistance to Johnson County when needed to be part of this organization. If interested in being a member of Johnson County ARES/RACES a membership application can be found on the MARC website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org).

If you are a current member please fill out another application to update your record. You may have had a call sign change, added more modes of communication or license upgrade. If you have any questions please contact Bob N9SIU or Dave KB9LOT.

# THE APRIL MARC MEETING

Time to roll up your 2-meter antenna and start chasing storms. Just in time for the severe weather season is an inexpensive idea on how to make a roll up 2-meter J-pole antenna. It's a great way to increase your HT gain for the price of pocket change. Gary Davis KD9SB will explain how to make one of these portable antennas during our Saturday April 20th meeting at the EOC.



Hope to see you there. Meeting starts at 8am.

Jack w8ish  
Club VP

\*\*\*\*\*

## Dayton Hamvention® Announces 2013 Award Winners

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) -- host of the Dayton Hamvention® -- has announced the winners of its four annual awards for 2013: the Amateur of the Year, the Technical Excellence Award, the Special Achievement Award and the Amateur Radio Club of the Year. These recipients will be honored at Hamvention in May. Each year, DARA invites the amateur community to nominate hams who have made significant contributions to the Amateur Radio Service.

### Amateur of the Year

Mustapha Landoulsi, DL1BDF, was named the Dayton Hamvention Amateur of the Year for 2013. Landoulsi -- for many years a fixture at the DARC table at Hamvention -- has been instrumental in promoting Amateur Radio all over the world. Fluent in Arabic, French, German and English, Landoulsi has worked tirelessly to bring radio amateurs together in the Middle East, Africa and other parts of the world. He established six Amateur Radio stations in Tunisia and continues to help re-establish them after the Arab Spring, the pro-democracy uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa that began in December 2010. As a pilot for Lufthansa Airlines, Landoulsi has organized the delivery of emergency medical equipment and medicine to African countries. The Amateur of the Year Award is given to an well-rounded radio amateur who has contributed to and made a long term commitment to the advancement of Amateur Radio.

## The Technical Excellence Award

DARA named two radio amateurs -- Dave Witten, KD0EAG, and David Rowe, VK5DGR -- as the recipients of its 2013 Technical Excellence Award. Recognized for their FreeDV software -- a GUI application for *Windows* and *Linux* systems that allow any SSB radio to be used for low bit rate digital voice -- Witten and Rowe developed *FreeDV* using open source Codec2 software. The Technical Excellence Award is given to an amateur or amateurs who have made an outstanding technical advancement in the field of Amateur Radio.

## The Special Achievement Award

George Thomas, W5JDX, was named the winner of the 2013 Special Achievement Award for his work on Amateur Logic TV and Ham Nation, both Internet-only broadcasts featuring Amateur Radio. Thomas -- who co-founded *Amateur Logic TV* in August 2005 -- serves as the show's producer and co-host. He has produced the "Smoke and Solder" segment on *Ham Nation* for more than 80 episodes. The Special Achievement Award is given to an amateur or amateurs who have made an outstanding contribution, usually spearheading a single, significant project, to the advancement of Amateur Radio.

## Amateur Radio Club of the Year

The West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Group in West Palm Beach, Florida was named the 2013 Amateur Radio Club of the Year. The club was selected based on its contribution in mitigating the effects of disaster situations, support of public service events, Amateur Radio education and recruitment, youth programs, years of service and number of members. The selection committee noted the club's work with the South Florida Science Museum, youth recruitment, ARISS participation in the ARISS program and training classes. The 2013 Dayton Hamvention is scheduled for May 17-19 at Hara Arena in Trotwood, Ohio, located just outside Dayton.

## ..... ARRL Newsletter

\*\*\*\*\*



# 2013 HAMFESTS

- May 17-19**      **Dayton Hamvention**, 8 AM til 6 PM   Hara Arena  
1001 Shiloh Springs Rd., Dayton, Ohio <http://www.hamvention.org/>
- July 13**        **Indianapolis Hamfest**, Marion County Fairgrounds,  
<http://www.indyhamfest.com/>
- October 5**      **Hoosier Hills Hamfest**, Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds,  
11261 US Hwy 50 West., Bedford, Indiana <http://www.w9qyq.org/>
- Nov. 16-17**    **Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo.**  
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, Indiana  
<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/>



# MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

**WA9RDF**  
**Repeater**  
**146.835/**  
**146.235 MHz**  
**151.4 Hz PL Tone**

**Club Officers:**  
**President: Robert Jones – KC9NJM**  
**Vice President: Jack Parker – W8ISH**  
**Secretary: Rhonda Curtis– WS9H**  
**Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG**  
**Repeater Trustee: Steve Brown – N9LC**

**Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS**

***The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club***

*P.O. Box 836  
Franklin, Indiana  
46131*

***Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU***

***Please send your articles to my email [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month***

